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July 24, 2008

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Favorable consideration of this application and entry of the foregoing amendment are respectfully requested.

New Independent claim 39 has been added. The new claim finds support, for example, in claims 1 and 4 as originally filed.

In response to the Examiner's requirement for restriction, Applicants elect the subject matter of Group II (claims 5-36, drawn to a cross-linkable resin) for prosecution in this application. The election is made with traverse and the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw the requirement for restriction for the reasons that follow.

The Examiner has based the requirement for restriction on PCT Rule 13.2. This Rule reads as follows:

"Where a group of inventions is claimed in one and the same international application, the requirements of unity of invention referred to in Rule 13.1 shall be fulfilled only when there is a technical relationship among those inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features. The expression "special technical features" shall mean those technical features that define a contribution which each of the claimed inventions, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art."

Applicants submit that, under this Rule, independent claims 1, 5 and 37 (Groups I, II and III, respectively) do each include the same technical feature that defines a contribution which the invention, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art.

The present invention relates to the cross-linking of resins. The advance that has been made is based on the use of a compound that is capable of being converted

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to a vinyl sulfonyl moiety (see final paragraph on page 2 of the specification) which then effects cross-linking of the resin.

The "special technical feature", outlined in the previous paragraph, is embodied in each of independent claims 1, 5 and 37, albeit in slightly different ways. Claim 1 specifies cross-linking of a resin by means of vinyl sulfonyl moieties generated *in situ* with the resin. Claim 5 defines a cross-linkable resin composition incorporating "vinyl sulfonyl precursor groups" which are capable of generating vinyl sulfonyl groups which can then cross-link the resin. Claims 37 and 38 define specific compounds that incorporate "vinyl sulfonyl precursor groups" and that are, therefore, suitable for use in the method of claim 1 or composition of claim 5.

The PCT Search Report only included "Category A" citations, which are not relevant to the present invention. Thus, as far as Applicants are aware, there is no prior art that destroys the novelty of the "special technical feature" as defined above (i.e., the generation of vinyl sulfonyl moieties *in situ* for cross-linking a resin). Furthermore, no lack of unity objection was raised during the International phase. That is, all claims were found to be related to one invention.

In addition to the above, the Examiner's attention is directed to the fact that the corresponding European application, which is derived from the same PCT application as the present application, proceeded to acceptance without any prior art objections. Enclosed is a copy of the first (and only) Examination Report issued in respect of the European application. Section 4 includes details of why the European Examiner found all claims to be novel and inventive over the cited prior art.

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In view of the above, the Examiner is again requested to reconsider the requirement for restriction and withdraw same.

An early and favorable Action on the merits is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

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